Remarks

Claims 1-32 are currently pending in this application.

Applicants note with appreciation the telephone interviews allowed by the Examiner

In light of the amendments above and remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and submit that all the claims in this application are in condition for allowance and request that this case be passed to issue.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5-8, 14-18, 22-25, and 31-32 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stupek et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,586,304) in view of Burns et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,018,747). The independent claims 1, 16, and 18 have been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the prior art. In particular, the claims have been amended to claim a method, a computer readable storage medium, and a system comprising a step for or means for "determining a respective conflict level for each of the files and shared resources which conflict with one another, each conflict level selected from a plurality of different conflict levels comprising of a warning level, an error level, and an informational level; wherein said storing the conflict information comprises storing the conflict level in the database of interrelated tables." The three levels determine what type of conflicts may exist if a _different application_ is installed. For example, the informational error level means that the same item exists for another application and certain match criteria are met. Application, page 12, lines 14-15. A warning level means that the application could cause problems, but not necessarily severe problems. Application, page 12, lines 16-17. The error level means that the application could cause an application malfunction. Application, page 12, lines 17-18.

Nothing in the prior art teaches, suggests, or discloses a system that determines change information, processes the change information to determine conflict information, and determine the conflict level for items that conflict with each other wherein the system can choose from at least three different conflict levels. Stupek only performs two types of comparisons: "a) whether or not a particular upgrade package corresponds to a resource on the

server, and b) whether or not the version number of the upgrade package matches the corresponding network resource." Stupek, col. 4, lines 6-11. If certain information does not match, the advisor uses additional information from the upgrade database to "determine the importance of the upgrade." Stupek, col. 4, lines 14-18. The system displays the importance of an upgrade as high, medium, or low and the reasons for the upgrade. Stupek, col. 8, lines 49-52 and as seen in at least Figures 9 and 10. Further, Stupek does not concern itself with conflicts of different applications. It merely compares different versions of the same application.

Burns discloses a method of reconstructing a version of a file in places where data storage space and memory resource are limited. Two versions of the same dates or files are utilized and differencing methods are used to find the changes made between the two methods. As shown in Figure 6 of the Burns patent, and as described in column 8, lines 42-47, conflicts occur when delete file commands require the delete file to a first write to a region of memory then later read from the same region.

In summary, the prior art does not teach, suggest, or disclose determining a respective conflict level for each of the files and shared resources which conflict with one another, each conflict level selected from one of at least three different levels of conflict severity; wherein said storing the conflict information comprises storing the conflict level in the database of interrelated tables as claimed by the applicants.

Applicants have further amended claim 16 by defining the change information as is information selected from a group consisting of the file name; registry path; registry key name; driver name and number of bits; the path section, and entry for INI files the same command data and entry data for configuration files; and the matching desktop-displayable human-readable text, a matching location, and a matching group for a shortcut. This fact in no way changes the definition of change information in claim 16 or claims 1 and 18, but merely includes it in the claim. Support for the changes can be found on pages 10-12, 19, 21, and 31.
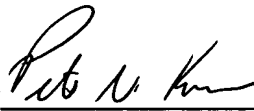
The Examiner rejected claims 2-4 and 19-21 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stupek et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,586,304) in view of Burns et al. (U.S. Pat.

No. 6,018,747) and further in view of Shipley (U.S. Pat. No. 5,634,114). The Examiner also rejected claims 9-13 and 26-30 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stupek et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,586,304) in view of Burns et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,018,747) and further in view of Choye et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,842,024). All these claims depend from independent claims 1, 16, or 18. In light of the amendments and remarks above explaining why claims 1, 16, and 18 are patentable, Applicants contend that claims 2-4, 9-13, 19-21, and 26-30 are also patentable over the cited prior art.

From the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-32 define over the prior art and a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited. The Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' attorney if it would further prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. McMILLAN

By _____
    Pete N. Kiousis
    Reg. No. 41,117
    Attorney/Agent for Applicants

Date: April 23 , 2002

BROOKS & KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351

Attachment

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Twice Amended) A method for managing software conflicts, the method comprising [the steps of]:

determining change information which represents actual changes made to a computer system's files and other shared resources during installation of different applications into the computer system;

processing the change information to determine conflict information which indicates which files and shared resources conflict with one another;

storing the conflict information in a database of interrelated tables; [and]

resolving the software conflicts based on the stored conflict information; and

determining a respective conflict level for each of the files and shared resources which conflict with one another, each conflict level selected from one of at least three different levels of conflict severity;

wherein said storing the conflict information comprises storing the conflict level in the database of interrelated tables.

16. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored therein a program which executes the steps of:

determining change information which represents actual changes made to a computer system's files and other shared resources during installation of different applications into the computer system wherein change information is information selected from a group consisting of the file name; registry path; registry key name; driver name and number of bits; the path section, and entry for INI files the same command data and entry data for configuration files; and the matching desktop-displayable human-readable text, a matching location, and a matching group for a shortcut;

processing the change information to determine conflict information which indicates which files and shared resources conflict with one another;

storing the conflict information in a database of interrelated tables; [and]

resolving software conflicts based on the stored conflict information; and

determining a respective conflict level for each of the files and shared resources which conflict with one another, each conflict level selected from one of at least three different levels of conflict severity.

18.   (Twice Amended)   A system for managing software conflicts, the system comprising:

means for determining change information which represents actual changes made to a computer system's files and other shared resources during installation of different applications into the computer system;

means for processing the change information to determine conflict information which indicates which files and shared resources conflict with one another;

a database of interrelated tables for storing the conflict information; [and]

means for resolving the software conflicts based on the stored conflict information;

means for determining a respective conflict level for each of the files and shared resources which conflict with one another, each conflict level selected from one of at least three different levels of conflict severity; and

wherein said storing the conflict information comprises storing the conflict level in the database of interrelated tables.